

SERIAL No. 09/774,807

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

**Claim 1. (Amended)** A computer network system used to inform concerned entities that a person has died comprising :

a patient care facility ~~hospital~~ notification center which transmits a death notice to a funeral home informing the funeral home of the death of the patient ~~an~~ individual;

a funeral home to receive the death notice from the patient care facility ~~hospital~~ notification center, said funeral home being linked by a computer network to concerned entities;

said concerned entities being linked to said computer network of ~~to~~ the funeral home to receive the death notice, and

said concerned entities including an insurance company having a policy on the patient ~~individual~~ who has died and the Social Security Administration.

**Claim 2. (Original)** The computer network system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said concerned entities linked to the computer network and the funeral home also include a government entity charged with maintaining vital statistics within a community including deaths.

**Claim 3. (Amended)** The computer network system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said patient care facility ~~hospital~~ notification center is linked to said funeral home by a digital transmitting medium and hardware capable of transmitting a digital signal from the patient care facility ~~hospital~~ notification center which can be received by the funeral home.

SERIAL No. 09/774,807

Page 3

**Claim 4. (Original)** The computer network system as claimed in claim 3, also including a pension plan administration office linked to said funeral home through the computer network to receive and transmit digital signals.

**Claim 5. (Amended)** A The computer network based method to transmit death notices to concerned entities comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a death notice from a patient care facility to a funeral home;
- b. the funeral home transmitting via a computer network the death notice to concerned entities linked to the funeral home including any insurance companies and the Social Security Administration; and
- c. said concerned entities that receive said death notice from the funeral home retaining data transmitted and acting on said data to provide any compensation due to beneficiaries of the patient ~~person~~ covered by the death notice.